

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A scissors-like surgical forceps comprising:-

a pair of forcep arms;

a pivot joint connecting the forcep arms intermediate their ends;

each forcep arm on one side of the pivot joint comprising a blade;

each forcep arm on the other side of the pivot joint comprising a handle;

the forcep arms being cranked adjacent the pivot joint whereby the handles are splayed apart with the blades in engagement; and

3, a tube gripping means connector for releasably securing the exterior of a length of tubing mounted on the pivot joint, whereby the length of tubing is held spaced-apart from and rearwardly of the blades when the blades are being inserted into a patient.

2. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 1, in which each blade is arcuate in shape having an open mouth facing the open mouth of the other blade.

3. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 2, in which each blade tapers towards its free end.

4. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 2, in which the handles are spring urged apart.

5. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps, as claimed in claim 2, in which there is a ~~third~~ guide blade mounted on the pivot joint.

6. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 1, in which each blade tapers towards its free end.

7. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 6, in which the handles are spring urged apart.

8. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 6, in which there is a ~~third~~ guide blade mounted on the pivot joint.

9. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 1, in which the handles are spring urged apart.

10. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 9, in which there is a ~~third~~ guide blade mounted on the pivot joint.

11. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 1, in which there is a ~~third~~ guide blade mounted on the pivot joint.

12. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 11, in which the ~~third~~ guide blade lies below the other blades on the pivot joint.

13. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 11, in which the ~~third~~ guide blade lies between the other two blades ~~on and~~ the pivot joint.

14. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 11, in which the guide blade includes ~~the tube gripping a releasable grip means to carry an~~ intercostal drain.

15. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 11, in which the guide blade extends rearwardly of the pivot joint.

16. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 11, in which the guide blade extends forwardly from the pivot joint substantially the same distance from the pivot joint as the other blades.

17. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 11, in which the guide blade is substantially flat, tapers towards its free end and carries a pivot pin to form the pivot joint.

18. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 11, in which the guide blade is substantially rectangular in cross-section tapering from the pivot joint towards its free end.

19. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 11, in which the guide blade is mounted between the other blades so that the guide blade is sandwiched therebetween with the handles splayed apart.

20. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 11, in which the guide blade extends rearwardly of the pivot joint and terminates in a bifurcated portion, each bifurcated arm of which carries an intercostal drain gripper of arcuate shape which can be urged apart to receive the intercostal drain and form the tube gripping releasable grip means.

21. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 11, in which the dimensions of the blades are so chosen that the blades project at approximately the same height above the guide blade as the length of tubing intercostal drain.

22. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 11, in which a spring is mounted between each handle and the guide blade to urge the handles away from the guide blade and thus apart.

23. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 20, in which the bifurcated arms cross intermediate their ends when an intercostal drain is not mounted therein.

24. (Currently Amended) A scissors-like surgical forceps comprising:-
a pair of forcep arms;
a pivot joint connecting the forcep arms intermediate their ends;
each forcep arm on one side of the pivot joint comprising a blade;
each forcep arm on the other side of the pivot joint comprising a handle;
the forcep arms being cranked adjacent the pivot joint whereby the handles are splayed apart with the blades in engagement; *and*
a tube gripping means connector for releasably securing the exterior of a length of tubing mounted on the pivot joint, whereby the length of tubing is held spaced-apart from and rearwardly of the blades when the blades are being inserted into a patient; and
each blade being arcuate in shape having an open mouth facing the open mouth of the other blade.

25. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 24, in which each blade tapers towards its free end.

26. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 25, in which the handles are spring urged apart.

27. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 25, in which

there is a third-guide blade mounted on the pivot joint.

28. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 24, in which the handles are spring urged apart.

29. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 28, in which there is a third-guide blade mounted on the pivot joint.

30. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 24, in which there is a third-guide blade mounted on the pivot joint.

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31. (Currently Amended) A scissors-like surgical forceps comprising:-
a pair of forcep arms;
a pivot joint connecting the forcep arms intermediate their ends;
each forcep arm on one side of the pivot joint comprising a blade;
each forcep arm on the other side of the pivot joint comprising a handle;
the forcep arms being cranked adjacent the pivot joint whereby the handles are splayed apart with the blades in engagement;
a tube gripping means connector for releasably securing the exterior of a length of tubing mounted on the pivot joint, whereby the length of tubing is held spaced-apart from and rearwardly of the blades when the blades are being inserted into a patient; and
a third-guide blade mounted on the pivot joint.

32. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 31, in which each blade tapers towards its free end.

33. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 32, in which the handles are spring urged apart.

34. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 31, in which the handles are spring urged apart.

35. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 31, in which the third guide blade lies below the other blades on the pivot joint.

36. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 31, in which the third guide blade lies between the other two blades and on the pivot joint.

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B, 37. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 31, in which the guide blade includes ~~the tube gripping a releasable grip means~~ to carry an intercostal drain.

38. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 31, in which the guide blade extends rearwardly of the pivot joint.

39. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 31, in which the guide blade extends ~~forwardly from the pivot joint~~ substantially the same distance from the pivot joint as the other blades.

40. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 31, in which the guide blade is substantially flat, tapers towards its free end and carries a pivot pin to form the pivot joint.

41. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 31, in which the guide blade is substantially rectangular in cross-section tapering from the pivot joint towards its free end.

42. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 31, in which the guide blade is mounted between the other blades so that the guide blade is

sandwiched therebetween with the handles splayed apart.

43. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 31, in which the guide blade extends rearwardly of the pivot joint and terminates in a bifurcated portion, each bifurcated arm of which carries an intercostal drain gripper of arcuate shape which can be urged apart to receive the intercostal drain and form the tube gripping releasable grip means.

44. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 31, in which the dimensions of the blades are so chosen that the blades project at approximately the same height above the guide blade as the length of tubing intercostal drain.

45. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 31, in which a spring is mounted between each handle and the guide blade to urge the handles away from the guide blade and thus apart.

46. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 43, in which the bifurcated arms cross intermediate their ends when an intercostals drain is not mounted therein.

47. (Currently Amended) A scissors-like surgical forceps comprising:-
a pair of forcep arms;
a pivot joint connecting the forcep arms intermediate their ends;
each forcep arm on one side of the pivot joint comprising a blade, each blade being arcuate in shape having an open mouth facing the open mouth of the other blade;
each forcep arm on the other side of the pivot joint comprising a handle;
the forcep arms being cranked adjacent the pivot joint whereby the handles are splayed apart with the blades in engagement;

a ~~connector tube gripping means~~ for releasably securing ~~the exterior of a~~
length of tubing mounted on the pivot joint, ~~whereby the length of tubing is held~~
~~spaced-apart from and rearwardly of the blades when the blades are being~~
~~inserted into a patient~~; and

a third guide blade mounted on the pivot joint.

48. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 47, in which each blade tapers towards its free end.

49. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 48, in which the handles are spring urged apart.

50. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 47, in which the handles are spring urged apart.

51. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 47, in which the guide blade includes ~~the tube gripping a releasable grip means~~ to carry an intercostal drain.

52. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 47, in which the guide blade extends rearwardly of the pivot joint.

53. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 47, in which the guide blade extends ~~forwardly from the pivot joint~~ substantially the same distance from the pivot joint as the other blades.

54. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 47, in which the guide blade is substantially flat, tapers towards its free end and carries a pivot pin to form the pivot joint.

55. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 47, in which the guide blade is mounted between the other blades so that the guide blade is sandwiched therebetween with the handles splayed apart.

56. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 47, in which the guide blade extends rearwardly of the pivot joint and terminates in a bifurcated portion, each bifurcated arm of which carries an intercostal drain gripper of arcuate shape which can be urged apart to receive the intercostal drain and form ~~releasable grip~~ ~~the tube gripping means~~.

57. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 47, in which the dimensions of the blades are so chosen that the blades project at approximately the same height above the guide blade as the intercostal drain.

58. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 47, in which a spring is mounted between each handle and the guide blade to urge the handles away from the guide blade and thus apart.

59. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 56, in which the bifurcated arms cross intermediate their ends when an intercostal drain is not mounted therein.

60. (Currently Amended) A scissors-like surgical forceps comprising:-
a pair of forcep arms;
a pivot joint connecting the forcep arms intermediate their ends;
each forcep arm on one side of the pivot joint comprising a blade;
each forcep arm on the other side of the pivot joint comprising a handle;
the forcep arms being cranked adjacent the pivot joint whereby the handles are splayed apart with the blades in engagement; and
a tube gripping means connector for releasably securing the exterior of a

length of tubing mounted on one of the arms, whereby the length of tubing is held spaced-apart from and rearwardly of the blades when the blades are being inserted into a patient.

61. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 60, in which each blade is arcuate in shape having an open mouth facing the open mouth of the other blade.

62. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 61, in which each blade tapers towards its free end.

63. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 61, in which the handles are spring urged apart.

64. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 61, in which there is a third-guide blade mounted on the pivot joint.

65. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 60, in which each blade tapers towards its free end.

66. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 65, in which the handles are spring urged apart.

67. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 65, in which there is a third-guide blade mounted on the pivot joint.

68. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 60, in which the handles are spring urged apart.

69. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 68, in which

there is a third-guide blade mounted on the pivot joint.

70. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 60, in which there is a third-guide blade mounted on the pivot joint.

71. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 70, in which the third-guide blade lies below the other blades on the pivot joint.

72. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 70, in which the third-guide blade lies between the other two blades ~~on and~~ the pivot joint.

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73. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 70, in which the guide blade includes ~~the tube gripping a releasable grip means~~ to carry an intercostal drain.

74. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 70, in which the guide blade extends rearwardly of the pivot joint.

75. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 70, in which the guide blade extends ~~forwardly from the pivot joint~~ substantially the same distance from the pivot joint as the other blades.

76. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 70, in which the guide blade is substantially flat, tapers towards its free end and carries a pivot pin to form the pivot joint.

77. (Currently Amended) A scissors-like surgical forceps comprising:-
a pair of ~~forcep~~ arms;
a pivot joint connecting the ~~forcep~~ arms intermediate their ends;
each ~~forcep~~ arm on one side of the pivot joint comprising a blade;

each ~~forcep~~ arm on the other side of the pivot joint comprising a handle;
the ~~forcep~~ arms being cranked adjacent the pivot joint whereby the handles are splayed apart with the blades in engagement; and

a ~~third~~ guide blade mounted on the pivot joint, the guide blade extending rearwardly of the pivot joint and terminating in a bifurcated portion, each ~~bifurcated arm of which said bifurcated portion carries a tubing drain gripper of and arcuate shape, the bifurcated arms which can be urged apart to receive a length of tubing the tubing and form releasable grip means.~~

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B, 78. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 77, in which the ~~bifurcated arms~~ cross intermediate their ends when an intercostal drain is not mounted therein.

79. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 77, in which the handles are spring urged apart.

80. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 77, in which a spring is mounted between each handle and the guide blade to urge the handles away from the guide blade and thus apart.

81. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 77, in which the ~~third~~ guide blade lies below the other blades on the pivot joint.

82. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 77, in which the ~~third~~ guide blade lies between the other two blades ~~on and~~ the pivot joint.

83. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 77, in which the guide blade extends ~~forward from the pivot joint~~ substantially the same distance from the pivot joint as the other blades.

84. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 77, in which the guide blade is substantially flat, tapers towards its free end and carries a pivot pin to form the pivot joint.

85. (Currently Amended) A scissors-like surgical forceps comprising:-

a pair of forcep arms;

a pivot joint connecting the forcep arms intermediate their ends;

each forcep arm on one side of the pivot joint comprising a blade;

each forcep arm on the other side of the pivot joint comprising a handle;

the forcep arms being cranked adjacent the pivot joint whereby the handles are splayed apart with the blades in engagement;

a tube gripping means ~~connector~~ for releasably securing the exterior of a length of tubing mounted on the pivot joint, whereby the length of tubing is held spaced-apart from and rearwardly of the blades when the blades are being inserted into a patient; and

a ~~third-guide~~ blade mounted on the pivot joint, the ~~third-guide~~ blade extending substantially the same distance from the pivot joint as the other blades, and the ~~third-guide~~ blade extending rearwardly of the pivot joint and terminating in a bifurcated portion, each bifurcated arm of said bifurcated portion ~~which carries a drain tubing gripper~~ of arcuate shape which can be urged apart to receive the tubing and form the tube gripping releasable grip means.

86. (Currently Amended) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 85, in which the bifurcated arms cross intermediate their ends when an intercostal drain is not mounted therein.

87. (Original) A surgical forceps as claimed in claim 85, in which the handles are spring urged apart.